



# Chatton News

The Newsletter for Chatton and Surrounding Areas  
Issue 70 December 2023 / January 2024



## Act of Remembrance

A good turnout for the Act of Remembrance on 12<sup>th</sup> November in Holy Cross Church and at the War Memorial.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Chillingham by

Alan Sanderson and Tillside by Alistair Macdonald-Smith. Poppy crosses were then planted, with their names called out, for each of the fallen of the parishes by those assembled - a very moving and poignant act for a small community.

Those familiar with our Act of Remembrance will have noticed a slightly different rendition of Last Post and Reveille. This year both bugle calls were recordings made at the Menin Gate on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023. We were fortunate enough to have been on holiday at the time touring the battle fields of Belgium and France where no visit would be complete without witnessing the Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate in Ieper (Ypres). It just happened that this particular evening the Last Post was sounded for the 33,000<sup>th</sup> time so there was a special ceremony including a lone piper and laying of wreaths.

The Last Post ceremony has taken place every evening at the Menin Gate in West Flanders at 8:00pm since 1928. After the inauguration of the Menin Gate Memorial (that lists nearly 55,000 of the 90,000 British & Commonwealth soldiers



with no known grave) a number of prominent citizens in Ypres decided that some way should be found to express the gratitude of the Belgian nation towards those who had died for its freedom and independence. So the idea of a daily sounding of the Last Post (the traditional salute to the fallen warrior) came about. The Menin Gate Memorial on the east side of Ypres was thought to be the most appropriate location for the ceremony as this was the location of the old city gate leading to the Ypres Salient battlefields through which so many British and Commonwealth troops had passed on their way to the Allied front line.



The first sounding of Last Post by buglers of the local volunteer Fire Brigade took place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1928 and since then it has been sounded at the Menin Gate Memorial every night and in all weathers.

The only exception to this was during the four years of the German occupation of Ypres when the daily ceremony was instead continued at Brookwood Military



Cemetery, Surrey. On the very evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres the ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate, in spite of the heavy fighting still going on in other parts of the town - bullet marks can still be seen on the memorial from that time.

Four silver bugles were donated to the Last Post Association by the Brussels and Antwerp Branches of the Royal British Legion.

The President of the Last Post Association said at the special ceremony "In order to have made the Last Post sound just once for each of the 54,585 soldiers whose names are on the Menin Gate, we will have to continue each evening until 2090. If we want to do it for each Commonwealth soldier that fell during the First World War, it will take until 2540, so we still have work to do."

The Memorial is currently undergoing a two year restoration project that includes scaffolding to cover the memorial with limited access to the memorial panels, so we were not able to view the structure itself. We will have to return another time to pay respect to the names of those also mentioned on the memorials at Chatton & Chillingham.

*Ian & Mary Catchpole*

★ MERRY CHRISTMAS ★  
*To all our readers and contributors*

**Banner picture of Frosty Rosehips courtesy of Chatton in Pictures**

## Our Sponsor

**TCL Data** are delighted to sponsor the printing of this edition of Chatton News.

TCL Data have provided design and other professional advice to the property and construction sector for over 20 years.

Barry Shambrook and the staff wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

[www.tcldata.net](http://www.tcldata.net)

## Carols Around the Village

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

As usual we will be carol singing in and around the village. We shall be starting at the village green at 6pm and there should be some pit stops along the way. All will be very welcome.

Funds will be raised for local charities. If you don't want us to call, please get in touch. Otherwise - our collection cans will be jangling. If you would like to join us on our tour, please do. We will end up in the Percy Arms at the end of the night for some hearty carols around the fireplace.

*Jim Railton*

## Speaker Nights

The season of Speaker Nights continues on

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Robin Metcalfe - *Tups and tantrums*

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Jessica Turner - *The Bamburgh Ossuary  
An exploration of the history of Ossuaries, the Bowl  
Hole Burials and Bamburgh's Anglo-Saxon past.*

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Heather and Marc Knight - *The Ice Warriors  
How plants feel and deal with the environment.*

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Alistair Cochrane - *The Tweed Salmon Centre  
An exciting prospect for Berwick.*

**Bar open 7pm**

**Talk starts 7.30pm**

**No charge - all welcome**

## Quiz Night

The next Quiz Night will be at Chatton Village Hall on  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm.**

Teams of six - either pick your team beforehand or just turn up on the evening and join in with someone else.

## Neighbourhood Watch



A meeting of local residents was called in 1992 to discuss the option of forming a Neighbourhood Watch group in Chatton. This was well attended in the Percy Arms and was agreed that such a group should be

formed with Ian Fletcher to be co-ordinator. A collection was made to purchase official signs around the village. In the end Ken Topham, the landlord of The Percy, agreed to sponsor the full sum to purchase the signs, so the funds collected would be banked for future use by the group.

The group has not been active for a number of years and the group funds have remained untouched in the bank for this time. In consultation with the local community police, it was agreed that the group should be formally rested. The residual funds of £130 should be donated for community use so will be donated for the Community Public Access Defibrillator to purchase battery / pads that need to be replaced after use or during regular maintenance.

Going forward, if anyone sees any suspicious behaviour they should contact Northumbria Police by calling 101 or 999 if an emergency, i.e. if a crime is happening now or someone is in immediate danger.

*Ian Fletcher*

## Congratulations

**Sally & Mick Douglas**

Celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> (Ruby) Wedding Anniversary on 11<sup>th</sup> November with a party at Wooler Golf Club.

It was a double celebration as Sally also celebrated a significant birthday.

The evening saw another birthday party at Chillingham Castle for Jane Lockyer, also celebrating a significant year.



## Stamps

Please remember to save the stamps from your Christmas cards.

I am still collecting on behalf of RNIB, please pop them through my letter box, at The Old Manse.

**Season's Greetings.**

*Mary Catchpole*



## Chatton Village Hall

The Village Hall AGM was held in September and the following Trustees were elected: Andrew Pigg (Chairman), Sebastian Moss (Secretary), Alan Hardy (Treasurer), Ally Prytherch, Shi Shi Ord, Steve Parker, Claire Wilce (NAS), Richard Tebay (PC).

Outgoing Chairman Ian Fiddes reflected on the successes and challenges over the year since recovering from the pandemic closures. The completion of the Play Area was a huge achievement and Ally Prytherch and her team rightly deserve credit for their hard work & commitment to see the project through - we hope to hold a formal opening event in the Spring. Building Improvements included extensive work on the roof, and work started on the kitchen renovation (including two new dual-fuel cookers) with a grant from National Lottery Community Fund. Work on the kitchen and upgrade of the toilet areas will continue as funding becomes available.

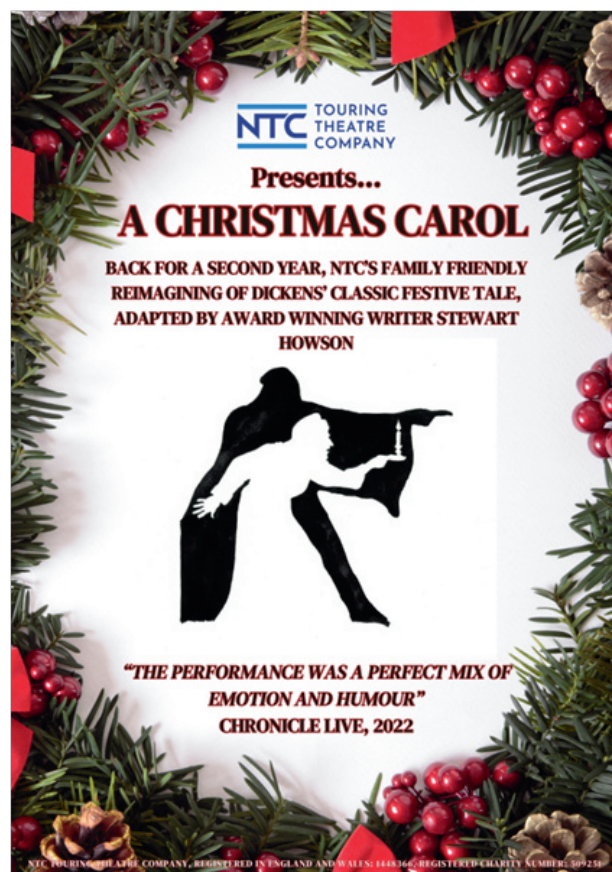
The Gym continues to thrive with equipment upgrades attracting new members. The completion of the Village Hall Heritage Project was celebrated in an open night event in November. The many ongoing Events have included Speaker Nights, Music Nights, Coffee Mornings, Theatre Nights, Quiz Nights, and the 'Murder Mystery' evening have all proved to be big successes. A new Nintendo Switch (bought with a Ballanger Trust grant) is situated at the rear of the Hall and has proved popular with younger residents. Bookings for private functions seem steady, with regular use by the North Northumberland Autistic Society, Yoga, Pilates and Carpet Bowls.

This all requires hard work behind the scenes by Trustees and Volunteers, along with the generosity of individual donors and those who support events throughout the year. The treasurer presented the annual accounts which show that CVH is solvent and has been able to plan for improvements whilst dealing with all the usual commitments. We continue to look for grant and other fund raising opportunities, and hope to launch a Friends of the Village Hall scheme in the new year. We work closely with the Parish Council and are grateful for their support in extending our lease on the VH building. We also work closely with Community Action Northumberland to ensure and share good practice.

We are determined to develop CVH as a flourishing Community Hub for the wider Tillside Parish area, and recognise that we need more help and skills to achieve this. There are opportunities for more volunteers, whether that be helping out with programmed events or wishing to start a new group or activity. If you would like to be involved or start a new group / activity please contact any one of the trustees.

A calendar of events, outline of the facilities, prices and booking procedures can be found on the CVH website.

Richard Tebay



**Friday 8th December**

*Step into the enchanting world of Charles Dickens' timeless classic, "A Christmas Carol," as it comes to life on stage in a magical and festive theatrical production. Starring Louis Roberts as Charles Dickens himself, and Melanie Dagg as his loyal and spirited maid, Nancy, this performance promises an uplifting and heartwarming experience for audiences of all ages.*

*Transporting you to the wintry streets of Victorian London, this enchanting adaptation weaves together the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a bitter and cold-hearted miser, and his extraordinary journey of redemption. As Charles Dickens narrates the story, his words paint vivid scenes of bustling markets, twinkling lights, and the transformative power of love and kindness during the holiday season.*

*Roberts captures the essence of Dickens, bringing his wit, charm, and vulnerability to the fore, while Dagg's portrayal of Nancy embodies strength, warmth, and a touch of mischievousness.*

*Described by the Newcastle Chronicle as "a performance with a perfect mix of emotion and humor," this production of "A Christmas Carol" will touch your heart and leave you with a renewed sense of the true meaning of the holiday season as Scrooge's journey of redemption unfolds before your eyes!*

*Curtain up 6pm, refreshments from 5.30pm.*

**Tickets £10, Child £5 from Chatton Village Store**

## Church Services

Do join us over the Advent and Christmas Season at our forthcoming services:

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 10:00am – Holy Cross, Chatton

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 9:30am – St Peter, Chillingham

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 6:30pm - Holy Cross, Chatton -

Carol Service with special musical guests The Glendale Community Ceilidh Band and local vocal group Alive and Singing!

Mulled wine and other festive fayre to be served afterwards

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 9:30am - **Christmas Day**

Eucharist - St Peter, Chillingham

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan (New Year's Eve) 10:00am -

Benefice Service (St Maurice, Eglington)

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 10:00am – Holy Cross, Chatton

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 9:30am – St Peter, Chillingham

## Tillside Parish Council

Parish Councillors have agreed to co-opt Helen Ray on to Tillside Parish Council to represent Hetton Ward, starting as of the January meeting.

There have been some improvements at Chatton Bridge area following recent works. However, improvement works will continue in this area.

*Isabel Hunter (Clerk)*

**TREES RANGING FROM 4-9FT PRICED BETWEEN £30-£80**

**NORTH BELLSHILL FARM**

### Christmas Trees

All of our Christmas trees are grown in Northumberland and un-netted so you can choose your perfect tree.

We will be open from **12pm-4pm** the following dates in December:

**Saturday 2nd Sunday 3rd**  
**Saturday 9th Sunday 10th**  
**Saturday 16th Sunday 17th**

Visit us at North Bellshill Farm, Belford, NE70 7HP

**Find us on Facebook and Instagram or email**  
[aer.rennerfarming@gmail.com](mailto:aer.rennerfarming@gmail.com)

**Coffee Morning**  
**Chatton Village Hall**

To be held on  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
 at 10:30am

COME AND ENJOY GOOD COFFEE WITH  
 GREAT CAKE AND PLenty OF CHAT

Entrance £2.00  
*(inclusive of coffee/tea & a slice of cake)*

Bacon Butties £2.50

Cake Stall & Tombola

Proceeds to  
 Alnwick Food Bank

## Old Year's Night

### Chatton New Year's

#### Eve Party

8.30 pm until 12.30am in  
 Chatton Village Hall.



**Bring your own food, drink and dancing shoes.**

Tickets £5 on sale now from Chatton Village Shop  
 Buy a ticket and nominate your favourite dance song so we can add it to the playlist

*Rachel & Tricia*

## Festive Funnies

What's green, covered in Christmas lights,  
 baubles, and goes ribbit?  
 A mistle-toad.

**How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth?**

**They had a weigh in the manger.**

*What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense?*  
*Wait, there's myrrh.*

**What do you call an elf that runs away from Santa's workshop?**

**A rebel without a Claus!**

What's the absolute best Christmas present?  
 A broken drum — you can't beat it!

If you would like to include something in the February / March newsletter please get in touch with us by email to [news@chatton.uk](mailto:news@chatton.uk) or contact any of the editorial team by Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 please